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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,950	07/21/2004	Kyosti Valta	43289-205707	3429

26694 7590 08/15/2006

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EXAMINER

WHITE, EVERETT NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/501,950	Applicant(s) VALTA ET AL.	
	Examiner Everett White	Art Unit 1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed June 9, 2006 has been received, entered and carefully considered. The amendment affects the instant application accordingly:
 - (A) Claim 4 has been canceled;
 - (B) New Claim 31 has been added;
 - (C) Claims 1 and 11 have been amended;
 - (D) Comments regarding Office Action have been provided drawn to:
 - (I) disclosure objection, which has been withdrawn;
 - (II) 112, 2nd paragraph rejection, which has been withdrawn;
 - (III) 102(b) rejection, which has been maintained for the reasons of record;
 - (IV) 103(a) rejection, which has been maintained for the reasons of record.
2. Claims 1-3 and 5-31 are pending in the case.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U. S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1, 2, 14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rahman et al (EP 402606) for the reasons disclosed on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed March 9, 2006.
5. Applicant's arguments filed June 9, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants amended the Claim 1 to recite that the "mixture thereof is subjected to mechanical working, thereby... or performs the reaction between the cellulose and urea", and argues that the Rahman et al reference does not disclose a method of manufacturing cellulose carbamate that includes subjecting the reaction mixture to mechanical working. This argument is not persuasive since the Rahman et al reference does disclose the use of a mechanical device to carry out the process thereof. For example, see the first paragraph under Example V in column 10, wherein "mechanical mixing" is recited. Furthermore, the claims as amended recites that "subjecting the mixture to mechanical working performs the reaction between the cellulose and urea". The Rahman et al reference does establish a reaction between cellulose and urea, therefore, mechanical working of the reaction mixture in the Rahman

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et al reference would be inherently included as part of the process. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rahman et al reference is maintained for the reason of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claims 3-13, 15-19 and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahman et al (EP 402606) in view of Hill et al (US Patent No. 2,134,825) for the reasons disclosed on pages 3-6 of the Office Action mailed March 9, 2006.
7. Applicant's arguments filed June 9, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants amended the independent Claim to recite that the "mixture thereof is subjected to mechanical working, thereby at least partially performing at least one of enhancing the absorption of the auxiliary agent and urea to the cellulose or performing the reaction between the cellulose and urea", and argues that this text distinguish the instantly claimed method from the conventional method suggested in the Rahman et al and Hill et al references. This argument is not persuasive since the Rahman et al reference in view of the Hill et al patent established a reaction between cellulose and urea being carried out, which embraces subjecting the reaction mixture to mechanical working as disclosed in the instant claims. Applicants argue that subjecting the mixture to mechanical working allows transfer of the mixture to an oven without drying as an intermediate step, wherein in conventional methods, the drying step before the oven is always necessary, because of the high liquid content of the mixture. This argument is not persuasive since simply amending the claims to recite that the mixture is subjected to mechanical working does not establish in the claims that the intermediate drying step is avoided. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 3-13, 15-19 and 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rahman et al reference in view of Hill et al patent is maintained for the reasons of record.

Summary

8. All the pending claims are rejected.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

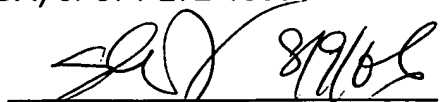
Examiner's Telephone Number, Fax Number, and Other Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Everett White whose telephone number is 571-272-0660. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


E. White


Shaojia A. Jiang
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600